

R.E. NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

◆.....God Matters.....◆

During December your child(ren) will be studying ADVENT in Religious Education:

RECEPTION

The children will be introduced to the idea of special days and seasons in the churches' year i.e. Sunday and the season of Advent. They will look at why Sunday is a special day and the four special Sunday's during Advent. They will develop an understanding that Advent is a time of preparation and when we prepare for the birth of Jesus. They will look at how they can prepare in terms of prayer and actions. They will also focus on making the sign of the cross.

Help at Home

- **Make a family advent wreath and follow the weeks through saying a prayer at the start of each new week. Discuss the use of the colour purple as a sign in the church of getting ready and make links with the colour vestments the priest wears.**
- **Practise making the sign of the cross.**



Year 3

Children will develop an understanding of the journey Christians take during Advent through the study of the role of the Shepherds in the Christmas story. Children will be able to make links about various stories showing how people journey to the Christ Child and the beliefs we hold about preparing for Advent. They will develop their own views about whether Jesus came for the weak and the poor.

Help at Home:

- **Research Santons and some of the different figurines.**
- **Discuss the way they act and whether it is in a Christian/Catholic way.**

Year 1

Children will continue to develop further the meaning and significance of Advent. They will focus on the Christian symbols used during Advent and learn to use religious words and phrases accurately when exploring how we prepare for the birth of Jesus.

Help at Home

- **Have an advent wreath and focus upon the symbols of the wreath i.e. the shape of a circle signifying Gods love has no beginning and no end, the purple candles linked with the colour used in Advent and the vestments, and explore the pink candle for the third week.**
- **Suggest ideas how, as Christians, we might prepare for the birth of Jesus. Write the ideas, or promises, onto pieces of card and read one out each day at the time of opening a window on the Advent calendar. The number of ideas is not important: it can be five (which are regularly repeated), or twenty-four (a promise for each day we count down to Jesus' birth).**

Year 2

- This unit introduces the children to the origins of the Christmas crib. They will learn about some of the symbols and customs used to prepare during Advent and will focus on how Christians get ready for Jesus' coming.

Help at Home.

- **Read the Story of St Francis and the first crib.**
- **Revisit the Advent Wreath and its meaning. Make an Advent Wreath to use at prayer times.**
- **Discuss ways we prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus at Christmas by being kind to others during Advent.**

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During December your child(ren) will be studying ADVENT in Religious Education:

Year 4



This unit is designed to deepen the children's understanding of what God promised when he promised to send his son. They will explore the fact that Jesus was born into the house of David and his ancestors. They will make links with how we celebrate and prepare for Advent.

Help at Home

- Look at the symbols on a Jesse Tree.
- Understand how people are prophets today and help within their own community.

Year 5

The children will begin this unit by examining how we can personally prepare ourselves during the season of Advent. They will explore in depth the character of John the Baptist and his ministry and how it is linked to Advent and to the words of Isaiah in the Old Testament. They will also be introduced to the O Antiphons.

Help at Home.

- When going to church during Advent look at the preparations the church makes and discuss how they are linked with what they know from scripture about Advent.
- Has Advent lost its true meaning? Discuss at home.



Year 6

In this unit, children will focus on Advent as a season of preparation and penance. By exploring in depth the Annunciation, children will consider how to respond as a follower of Christ. His teachings through the parables of the Bridesmaids and the Sheep and Goats will provide for a deeper opportunity to explore the responses demanded of Christ's followers in today's world. This unit will also explore Advent as preparing for the second coming of Christ.

Help at Home

- Revisit the advent wreath and its meaning as well as the meaning of Advent and how as a people we celebrate and prepare during this season.
- Discuss why Jesus told parables and the impact they have on us. Ask which parables your child likes and why and how it impacts on their life.

EVENTS AND SCHOOL EVENTS AND SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS

Friday 30th November – Advent Assembly – Blessing of Advent Wreaths.

Sunday 2nd Dec – First Sunday of Advent

Tues 11th /Wed 12th Dec – KS1 Christmas Play

Fri 8th Dec – Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Tues 18th Dec – KS2 Carol Service

Fri 21st Dec – End of term Mass 10am.

Further details about special events and school celebrations will be issued in the weekly newsletter